



ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS
HALL OF FAME

Darlene Fletcher

Barrel Racer



Two time qualifier for the International Finals Rodeo (IFR) 1984 & 1985

IPRA Reserve World Champion 1984

#6 in IPRA World Standings 1985

First woman in IPRA history to be ranked in the top 10 all around standings (barrel racing & team roping).



Darlene Fletcher 1st Woman To Make IPRA All-Around Standings

Clarksville, TX—A fourth place team roping win at the Culppeper, Virginia rodeo made IPRA history. For the first time ever, a woman moved into the elite top ten all around standings for the IPRA. Darlene Fletcher, of Clarksville, Texas, currently in second place in the barrel racing standings, moved into ninth place on the All Around list with a total won of \$13,309.41. Darlene is the wife of Mike Fletcher, currently ranked third in the All Around standings, and perennial IFK qualifier.

Darlene began hauling a barrel horse to IPRA rodeos five years ago, with a goal of qualifying for the Finals. 1982 looked like a sure shot, with Darlene sitting at sixth place at mid-season, until misfortune struck and her horse died. She ended the 1982 season in sixteenth place — just one hole out of IFR13.

Not willing to give up, Darlene purchased two barrel horses in November of 1982. One was an eight-year-old

sorrel gelding named Doc's Zantanon, who was quickly christened Shorty because of his diminutive size (14.2 hands). Shorty immediately began to prove himself, finally moving into the barrel racing standings by July 4. Then, once again, tragedy struck. Not only did husband Mike break an ankle on Independence Day, but Shorty suffered a broken sesamoid bone, and will be out of competition for the rest of the year.

At least this time Darlene was prepared. She sent for the other horse she had purchased when buying Shorty, and with this new mount, Tux, she won close to \$1,400 in the next month. By the July 22 standings, she had moved into first place in the barrel racing standings and fifth place in the all around standings.

Darlene started team roping just last year, and with coaching from her husband Mike and brother Norman Edwards, she has become pretty handy with a heeling

loop. Mike was her header at the Culppeper rodeo and, according to Darlene, her only partners thus far have been her two coaches.

Darlene plans to continue team roping every weekend and hopes to maintain her place in the all around standings. She says that her strongest supporters are the women and that she gets a great deal of encouragement from them.

The Fletchers rodeo for a living, carrying their four year old son Mikey with them to every rodeo. Rounding out the traveling crew are Bobby Cooper, Brian Agnew, Dee Berryhill and Debbie Allen. RN



Darlene Fletcher
Clarksville, Texas

Walker Wins AA At

Kodiak Hartshorne Rodeo

Wayne Walker won all around cowboy honors at the Kodiak Hartshorne Roundup Club Rodeo.

Total payoff at the successful rodeo was \$20,680

Clint Corey also scored 77 to win the bareback riding and \$454.21.

Another 77 gave Sam Poutous the bull riding victory and \$833.22.